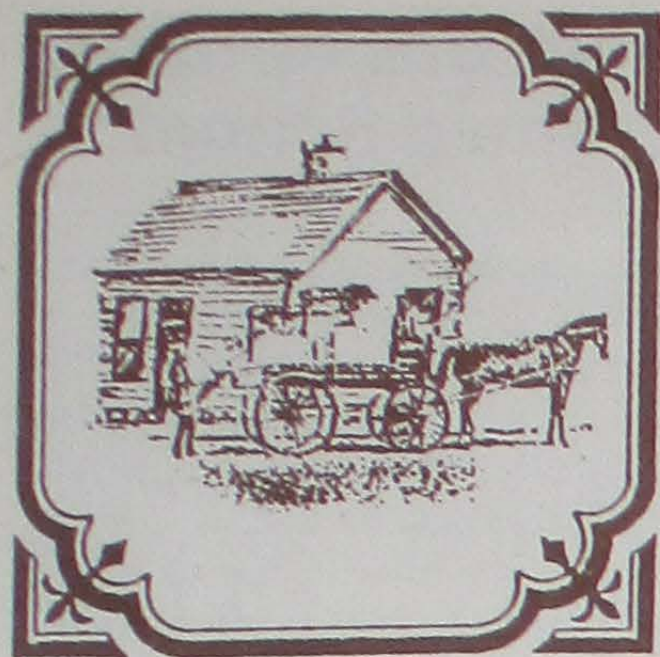


Jan 85



The Ames Intelligencer

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Hoggatt Schoolhouse Backdrop for Nostalgic Drama

A videotape under production for the promotion of historic 1861 Hoggatt School also is creating what looks like a first rate piece of nostalgic drama.

That drama, being photographed against the background of the restored first Ames school, features a cast of a dozen Ames grade school children and a teacher. It is a bit reminiscent of the popular "Little House on the Prairie."

In mid-nineteenth century costumes, a few originals and others sewed by mothers, the boys and girls play before the camera roles they have rehearsed again and again until the events they portray seem spontaneous and real rather than mere performances.

Action revolves around the historic building now standing at Burnett Avenue and Eighteenth Street. It was built as a township school before

Teachers and others wishing to borrow the Hoggatt School tape may reserve it by calling 232-6467, the Meeker School office. It should be completed about the middle of January.

Ames was incorporated, before the railroad had pushed west beyond Nevada, and when what now is Iowa State University was only a state experiment farm.

The story was written and the filming is being directed by Mrs. Thomas Gossard, widow of the grandson of Sarah Jane Emery, first



Maybe a tinge of stage fright shows on faces of students awaiting lights and camera in production of Hoggatt School video. They are, from left, Elizabeth Welch, Kim Allen, Kim Wignall and Amy Schroeder with Steve Gartz in front. Mrs. Thomas Gossard plays the teacher's role.

teacher in the school. It was photographed by Stanley Maas.

Action revolves around routine daily incidents such as recitations from aged texts, doing sums on slates, bringing in a pail of drinking water, playing country school games, checking a mousetrap. A boy plays the traditional trick of dunking a girl's pigtail in his inkwell. A girl who didn't learn a poem is sentenced to wear a dunce cap by the stern Miss Emery, played by Mrs. Gossard.

The videotape is being produced by the Ames Heritage Association especially for the use of teachers in Ames and surrounding area schools who are planning to bring classes to visit the Hoggatt school and perhaps hold class sessions there.

Most teachers and students know so little about country school life in the 1860's that the tape can be of considerable value to them as they prepare for their visit to Hoggatt, said Mrs. Gossard.

But the videotape also is suitable for adult groups and should have a strong nostalgic appeal for them, Mrs. Gossard predicted. Already several clubs and organizations have expressed an interest in it. It will run about 30 minutes.

The student actors are from Meeker School. In the film they bear the names of the original students at Hoggatt School, such names as Hoggatt, there were six of them in the real life situation; Fitzpatrick, there were four of them; McCarthy; and Smith.

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The Ames Intelligencer

Ames Heritage Association Vol. III No. 1
1523 Curtiss Avenue Jan. 1985
Ames, Iowa 50010
F. Terrill Adams, president

First Teacher's Grave Marked

Sixty-five years after his death, Henry May's grave in the Ames Municipal Cemetery finally has been marked.

A simple blue granite stone with the inscription, "Ames' First School-teacher" has been installed by the Ames Heritage Association. The inscription also includes his name and that of his wife, who lies buried beside him. He was born in 1829 and died in 1919, and she lived from 1833 until 1909.

May brought to his job as a teacher in Hoggatt School a remarkable background of education and experience, including diplomatic service in Africa.

While in Africa he fell victim to what was called the "black sickness" and relied heavily on quinine and brandy. He left the diplomatic service and came West for a new start, arriving in Ames only a year after the railroad was laid.

Sarah J. Emery preceded May as a teacher at Hoggatt School, but she was employed by the township before an Ames school district was organized.

Marking of the grave was scheduled by the Association for May, 1983, but had been delayed.

Video — from page 1

Students playing roles are Kim Allen, Jason Shaupenbuel, David Abelson, Lisa Moore, Kim Wignall, Amy Schroeder, Chad Jagerson, Molly Dimond, Elizabeth Welch, Adrianna Hanson, Steve Gartz, and Kristi McConnell.

Many persons contributed properties, such as dinner pails, old books, costumes, including such items as suspenders. Among those contributing items and other help were Bess Ferguson, Shelly Boyd, Bev Saxton, June Barnes, Marvin Miller, Farwell Brown and Lee Himan. Actors provided bonnets and other items.

Packet Designed to Help Background Inspection of Pioneer Ames School

To help teachers, Scout leaders and others planning to bring groups of young people to visit historic 1861 Hoggatt School, a thick information packet has been prepared.

Materials in the packet range from information about games played by school children in the 1860's to ideas about good things for dinner buckets, including some recipes.

Suggested lesson plans suitable for a country school of that period are intended to help teachers demonstrate what school was like for children then. Such items as quaint period text books and slates are available for student use.

The extensively researched contents of the package has been in preparation since last summer by Suzanne Kelly, a teacher at Meeker School in Ames. Information about the packet can be obtained at the Meeker School office, Phone 232-6467 during regular school hours.

For classes planning to bring filled dinner pails, the suggestions urge simple foods in keeping with the frugality and customs of the times. Such things as cheese, eggs, meat sandwiches and local fresh fruits in season are appropriate. But they shouldn't be wrapped in waxed paper or foil because such things weren't known then. Even plain brown paper was scarce. A dinner bucket can be constructed from an old coffee can equipped with a wire handle.

A few cookie recipes in use in the 1860's are included with molasses used as sweetener rather than then scarce sugar.

Sports played by country school children of the times were simple, such games as tug of war; follow the leader; leap frog; hop scotch; marbles; hide and seek; and button, button, who's got the button?

But several games played then would not be encouraged in Ames schools today because they would be considered too dangerous — such popular favorites then as ante, ante over; pump, pump, pullaway; and

crack the whip, according to Mrs. Kelly.

Blind man's buff would be frowned on today because of the sexist title and lack of sensitivity to the disabled and because the eye bandage passed from student to student might spread headlice. Students had more playground freedom then than now, Mrs. Kelly commented.

The informational material also contains an outline of the history of Hoggatt School. It includes a map showing the school's original location, then in open country but now near the intersection of Lincoln Way and Maple Avenue.

Collection Adds 45 More Objects

Forty-five items have been contributed to the Ames Heritage Association since November, 1983, to be added to the growing collection of objects of historical interest to Ames.

The preponderance of materials contributed are appropriate for association with the restored 1861 school, but many concern schools of other periods. A number of artifacts are not associated with schools.

Some of the items are on permanent display in the Hoggatt School, but most of them, after being catalogued, are stored in space provided in the nearby Meeker School. There they are being held until proper display or museum space is achieved and they can be shown as part of the Ames area heritage. Persons interested in contributing to the collection may contact Leland Himan, principal of Meeker school.

The year's contributions include such things as a pair of oil bracket lamps, an old wall map, a globe, a 48-star flag in a stand, a wooden hand-made sled, a wooden chalk box and many books. The books range in publication dates from 1856 to 1914.



Theodore Roosevelt is introduced by Ames Mayor Parley Sheldon on the steps of the railroad station in 1910.

Teddy Roosevelt Greeted in Ames

By Farwell T. Brown

How many U.S. presidents have visited Ames?

At 7:45 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 26, 1910 Theodore Roosevelt was one. Completing his second term as president in 1909, Roosevelt in late 1910 had returned from a hunting and exploring expedition in East Africa and his visit to Ames probably was closely timed with his break with his protege, Taft, that led to his establishing the Bull Moose Party in 1912.

The Ames Intelligencer of Aug. 25, 1910 (Thursday) announced that Teddy Roosevelt "will speak to the veterans of the Civil War and the citizens of Ames from the north entrance of the C. & N. W. station at 7:55 AM."

The headline and the front page story of the Sept. 1, 1910 Intelligencer reported that between three and five thousand Ames citizens were on hand at the depot at the 7:45 a.m. arrival of the Roosevelt train.

In the above photo we see Ames Mayor Parley Sheldon making an enthusiastic introduction of Roosevelt who is standing at his side.

The welcoming committee that morning included, in addition to Sheldon, L.M. Bosworth, president of the Ames Commercial Club; F. R. Conway, editor of the Intelligencer; Tom Rice, veterinarian with Roosevelt's regiment in the Spanish-American War and by 1910 a prominent Ames dentist; Henry McCarthy, of the Fremont Republican; Tom J. Miller, commander of the local G. A. R.; J. G. Tilden, past mayor; Lon Hardin, editor of the Ames Times; C. R. Quade, delegate to the 1908 Republican convention; C. G. Lee, district judge; Dean C. F. Curtiss, Dean E. W. Stanton; E. W. Valentine; Capt. W. M. Greeley and Herman Knapp. All together they made a good representation of Ames business and college citizenry.

Many Ames people of today can tell you of several more recent U.S. presidents who have visited Ames, but few here today were on hand that morning in 1910 when that good crowd gathered along the north side of the C. & N. W. station. However, many of us will recognize many of the names of the welcoming committee that day.

By the way, notice the tile roof on the station. It was then in its prime and served a heavy passenger train schedule of that day.

Renewals Due in January

The Ames Heritage Association seeks renewal of annual memberships for 1985 and would welcome new members, too. Memberships are due in January.

The Association needs funds from membership payments to continue its programs and projects now in progress, and to move toward becoming a permanent and active force for the preservation of Ames history.

Some of the uses for which funds are sought include:

- Maintenance of the 1861 Hoggatt School;
- Promotion of the use of the old school;
- Replacement of the inadequate stove in the school;
- Promotion of the oral history program to preserve Ames history in eye-witness accounts;
- Provision of space for storage and display of artifacts and materials as an initial step toward establishment of an Ames museum.

To help keep the Ames Heritage Association strong and progressive, please renew your membership and, if possible, bring new members into the organization.

Annual membership dues are: Regular, \$5; Business and Organization, \$25 or more; Sustaining, \$100. Life membership is \$1,000.

Make checks payable to Ames Heritage Association and send them to:

Rodney Fox, secretary
1523 Curtiss Avenue
Ames, IA 50010

Please enroll me as a 1985 member of Ames Heritage Association. I enclose \$ _____.
Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Interviews Mark Start of Project

With six interviews safely on tapes, the oral history project sponsored by the Ames Heritage Association already is well under way.

The project is designed to capture and preserve on tape as a future Ames history resource facts and reminiscences from a number of long-time Ames citizens.

A list of about 40 names of persons to be interviewed has been established and will be added to. The opening interviews have been conducted by Farwell T. Brown, but other individuals have indicated their intentions of participating. Additional persons to conduct interviews are sought.

Persons already interviewed are:

Mrs. Margaret Rogers, 621 Douglas Avenue, who came to Ames with her parents in 1916 from Iowa Falls. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Merrill, were the first managers of the then new Sheldon-Munn Hotel.

Harold Loughran, who lived in Des Moines for many years. He was the son of Tom Loughran, a long-time early day druggist in Ames. His family lived in the Octagon house at one time.

Mrs. Hazel Childs, 1203 Northwestern Avenue, of an Ames pioneer family. Her mother was Della (Nichols) Neal who started school in Ames the year the Ames Independent District was formed.

Fletcher Allen, founder with his brother Ed and their father, of the Allen Motor Co. Their business site for many years is now to be the new Ames Public Library site.

Mrs. Edna (Clark) Mitchell, 213 So. Hazel, who retired in 1962 after 33 years with the Iowa Highway Department. An Iowa State College graduate of 1917, she entered U.S. military service as a dietitian in 1918. She received a belated recognition of her military status since women in 1918 were not accorded military service rank.

Earl Smith, now in his nineties and a resident of Des Moines. He



Eunice Kuyper, Pella, will speak at Ames Heritage Association's annual meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 8.

Kuyper to Speak at AHA Meeting

Eunice Kuyper, Pella, a trustee of the Iowa Historical Museum Foundation, will address the Ames Heritage Association's annual meeting Tuesday, Jan. 8, at Meeker school, at 7:30 p.m.

The speaker also is associated with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation and the Iowa State University Board of Governors; and is a past president of the Pella Historical Society.

A former teacher, she was educated at Hope College, Holland, Mich., and at Trenton State, in New Jersey. She moved to Iowa in 1959 and is owner of Strawtown Inn, Pella.

Officers and five board members will be elected, and regular reports presented.

Kate Shelley Here —

Heroine of the event which occurred 28 years ago next Monday, Miss Kate Shelley will attend the semi-centennial and will be a guest of honor at Ames Saturday. Monday she telephoned her acceptance. "I deeply appreciate the honor that the community has bestowed upon me. I expect to arrive on No. 8, arriving at Ames at 9:50 Saturday morning."

—*The Ames Intelligencer, July 1, 1909*

was Story County attorney in the twenties and practiced law in Ames for many years.

Ames Heritage Association
1523 Curtiss ave
Ames, Iowa 50010

Readers Presented

A set of seven McGuffey Readers and a speller for Hoggatt School have been presented to Polly Gossard as a memorial to her late husband, Thomas, a grandson of Sarah Jane Emery, first teacher in the pioneer school. The books were presented by the Boyd family, Shelly, Mort and Paul.

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